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CIA chief Turner puts old pal on payroll analysis

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WASHINGTON — Director of Central Intelligence Stansfield Turner has placed his longtime "idea man" on the CIA payroll as the U.S. intelligence shakeup continues to mixed reviews.

The latest newcomer is Robert D. "Rusty" Williams, now on the government payroll at \$47,500 a year as special assistant to Adm. Turner. A systems analyst, he has been with the admiral in a succession of assignments for at least a decade.

While his present job is to study past clandestine operations by the battered CIA, no one doubts that Williams is more able to influence Turner than any other person at the CIA.

TO SOME OBSERVERS, Williams is "a solid man." To others, at some point, he has seemed "a total disaster."

The Turner-Williams connection goes back to the days when Turner, then a bright, articulate commander and pioneer of Navy systems analysis, formed a deep professional friendship with Williams, who was then doing Navy work under contract from Stanford Research Institute (SRI).

Under the patronage of the former chief of naval operations, Adm. E. R. Zumwalt, Turner rose rapidly, ascending from captain to vice-admiral in four years. During this rise, which took the admiral to some of the highest places in the Navy, Williams, frequently in some consultancy status, was never far away. He became, as one source put it, "Turner's single closest confidant on national security matters."

On leave of absence from SRI, Williams followed the admiral to the latter's frequently stormy tour of duty as president of the Naval War College, Newport, R.I. While at the war college, Williams headed a new department of management and came under heavy criticism.

Whatever the facts of Williams' performance at Newport, which remain a matter of sharp controversy, he left his teaching post abruptly in one year.

Soon after, however, when Turner moved up to command the U.S. Second Fleet, Williams followed, this time in a government consultancy status.

"STAN VALUES Rusty in a very private way," said one source. "He listens to him as he does to few others if any."

In Adm. Turner's latest assignment prior to the CIA — NATO commander in the Mediterranean — there is no

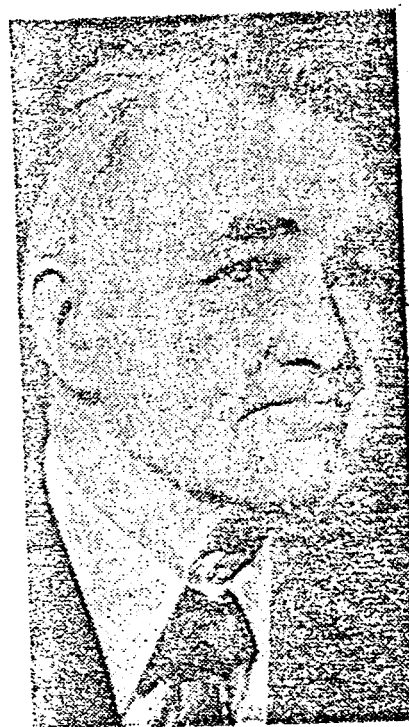
record of any official connection or employment of Williams, but all sources agree the two kept in close touch, with an uninterrupted idea-input on the part of the analyst.

When President Carter appointed Turner, his Naval Academy classmate, to his present post, Turner immediately drew some criticism, especially among CIA professionals, for bringing along a private retinue of naval officers who have been members of the admiral's "team."

These, quickly nicknamed "The Gang of Seven," included a Navy executive assistant (aide-de-camp), a Navy appointments secretary, a commander serving as speechwriter and adviser and a recently retired naval captain as public affairs officer — the first such ever to bear that title in the agency's tightlipped past. To this group, Williams's name is often added even though he is civilian.

That Williams' role will not be confined to sleuthing down past mistakes is generally agreed. How he will use his powerful influence with the director of central intelligence, and to what purpose remains to be seen.

But Williams is now a fact of life at the CIA and, says one insider, had better be taken seriously. "Wherever Stan goes or will go," he stated, "Rusty will show up."



—AP PHOTO

STANSFIELD TURNER